

HONORING SUPERVISOR MEL
VARRELMAN UPON HIS RETIRE-
MENT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mel Varrelman as he retires from the Napa County Board of Supervisors. Mel's tenure as a Napa County Supervisor is a model for all those who are in public office and for all those who value community service.

During my service in Congress and the California State Senate, I have consistently turned to Mel for advice, assistance, and friendship. Since Mel was first elected to the St. Helena City Council in 1976 and then to the Board of Supervisors in 1982, he has represented his district, which includes my home in St. Helena, with sincerity, pragmatism and vision. Whether being on the winning side or the losing side of votes, Mel always cast his vote in the way he believed would improve the lives of his constituents. He has repeatedly demonstrated that true leadership often requires taking an unpopular position before time is eventually allowed to prove its benefits to all.

Mel shares a passion for agriculture and open space, particularly in the Napa Valley. Mel's steadfast commitment to the preservation of open space and agricultural lands in Napa County has allowed our Valley to remain as both an economic engine for the region and as one of the most beautiful places in the country. During his tenure, Mel helped enact measures including a landmark plan to require a vote of the people to rezone land, a hillside ordinance, a 160-acre minimum parcel requirement for agriculture, watershed and open space lands, a groundwater ordinance and a watershed ordinance.

As a private citizen, Mel has also contributed to the well being of those in our community. As an accountant and certified financial planner, he has helped individuals and small businesses navigate the tax code and the confusing world of finance. I often seek Mel's analysis of how national tax and fiscal policy will affect the lives of the hardworking people of the First Congressional District.

In addition to serving on the Board of Supervisors, Mel also serves on the Napa County Emergency Medical Care Committee, the Upper Valley Waste Management Agency, the Napa County Transportation Planning Agency, the Local Agency Formation Commission and the Government Finance Committee of the California State Association of Counties.

Mel lives in my hometown of St. Helena with his wife, Rose. They have two great children and are wonderful neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize Napa County Supervisor and my friend Mel Varrelman for his tremendous contributions to the Napa Valley and its residents. Even as Mel retires as the District 3 Supervisor, I am confident that he will continue to provide leadership in Napa County for many years to come.

RECOGNITION OF VINCENT
KRASINSKI

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Vincent Krasinski, a highly respected and influential member of the Glaziers Local Union 1087 who recently announced his retirement. In his 32 years as a member, Vincent was a leading voice for labor in Nassau and Suffolk County, and New York City. He joined the union in 1970 and quickly became a leader. First, he was elected to the LU 1087 executive board in 1979 and then being elected in 1987 as a Business Agent for LU 1087.

Vincent proudly served his country in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War from 1969 to 1970. Upon returning from his tour of duty he married Jennifer, his wife of almost 33 years. They have two wonderful children, Jennifer and Laurie, and are the proud grandparents of Vincent, Alyssia, Chloe and Casey.

While serving as a member of the union's executive board, and raising a family, Vincent still found time to work on many political campaigns for labor friendly candidates. I am proud to say I am one of them. He has volunteered his time for the St. Francis Hospital Heart Center in Roslyn, New York and currently sits on Bob Gaffney's Labor Advisory Board.

Vincent Krasinski is responsible for the current strength of LU 1087. He leaves behind a strong legacy and is a good example of the difference one person can make. I applaud Vincent for his dedication to our community and thank him on behalf of the people of not only for the 4th Congressional District, but the rest of Nassau and Suffolk County and New York City who benefitted from his hard work and commitment.

IN SUPPORT OF THE LOW-INCOME
HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE EQ-
UITY ACT OF 2002

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) Equity Act of 2002. Most people associate LIHEAP with home heating assistance to needy families in the wintertime, and that is an extremely important purpose of the program. However, while many people are in danger each year because they cannot afford to properly heat their homes, many across the South but also all over the country are in danger every year because they cannot afford to cool their homes.

I am introducing this legislation to bring parity to the LIHEAP program between regions that are more likely to use LIHEAP for heating and for cooling. My hometown of Houston can see many consecutive days of above 100 degree temperatures, combined with high humidity. This is a potentially lethal combination for the poor, often elderly, residents who cannot

afford an air conditioner or afford to pay the electricity bill. In addition, the Northern part of the country sees too many preventable heat related deaths.

According to the National Weather Service, heat related deaths and injuries far outpaced cold related deaths and injuries. In 2000, there were 158 heat related deaths and 26 cold related deaths. In addition, there were over 400 heat related injuries also in 2000. In 2001, the difference was even more pronounced with 166 heat related fatalities and 4 cold related fatalities.

It is time Congress and the LIHEAP program recognize the dangerous reality the heat waves pose in this country and begin to offer residents in danger from hot weather as much energy assistance as we offer to residents in danger from cold weather. Let us work together to bring some equity to LIHEAP and prevent more, senseless, fatalities of the elderly, infirm, and children who cannot afford air conditioning. I urge my colleagues to support the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) Equity Act of 2002.

BALANCED FEDERAL BUDGET

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I fulfill the pledge I made to the citizens of southern Missouri to introduce and work tirelessly to pass an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, that requires a balanced Federal budget. Over the course of the past several decades, fiscal irresponsibility has produced a Federal debt that is fast approaching \$5 trillion. That's trillion, with a 't,' Mr. Speaker. A debt of \$5 trillion is a mind-boggling figure, but it can be placed in a much clearer perspective. A child born today immediately inherits nearly \$20,000 of debt, owed directly to Uncle Sam. The same is true for every American. The era of continuing annual budget deficits must end, and it is clear that the only way to restore conservative fiscal values to the Nation's budget is to pass the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

The stakes in this debate could not be more important. The fiscal future of the United States hinges on the ability of Congress and the President to make the difficult choices required to balance the Federal budget. It's more than debating trillion dollar figures. It's about making our economy stronger and providing every working American family with a better chance to make ends meet. A balanced budget will strengthen every sector of our economy with lower interest rates that will help families stretch each paycheck further. Home mortgages, automobiles, and a better education will become more affordable to every working family, making the American Dream closer to reality for all.

Mr. Speaker, I am committed to working with my colleagues in the new Congress to see that the balanced budget constitutional amendment is passed and sent to the States for ratification. A constitutional amendment is certainly no substitute for direct action on the part of the Congress. However, we have seen time and time again instances where those who object to conservative fiscal responsibility